

We claim:

1. An electrosurgical scissors comprising:
an end effector (32) comprising a first blade member (34) and a second blade
5 member (36), the first blade member (34) and the second blade member (36)
pivottally connected;
a fluid passage (82) in fluid communication with at least one fluid outlet
(120);
at least one of the first blade member (34) and the second blade member (36)
10 electrically coupled to an electrical connector (68), the electrical connector (68)
configured to electrically couple the scissors to a radio frequency power source;
the first blade member (34) having a first blade member exterior surface
(137) and the second blade member (36) having a second blade member exterior
surface (139), at least one of the exterior surfaces configured to slide along tissue
15 while the exterior surface is coupled adjacent the tissue with a fluid expelled from
the fluid outlet and radio frequency power is provided to the tissue from the scissors;
and
whereby the tissue may be sealed from at least one of a flow of bodily fluid
and air.
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2. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the electrosurgical scissors
further comprise monopolar electrosurgical scissors.
3. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the electrosurgical scissors
25 further comprise laparoscopic electrosurgical scissors.
4. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the first blade member comprises a first blade member distal portion;
the second blade member comprises a second blade member distal portion;
30 and
at least one of the distal portions further comprises a bulbous portion.
5. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first blade
member exterior surface and the second blade member exterior surface at least
35 partially comprises an electrically insulative material.

6. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the first blade member further comprises a first blade member shearing
surface;
the second blade member further comprises a second blade member shearing
5 surface;
the first blade member shearing surface and the second blade member
shearing surface face one another;
the first blade member exterior surface is located generally opposite the first
blade member shearing surface; and
10 the second blade member exterior surface is located generally opposite the
second blade member shearing surface.
7. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
an elongated shaft;
15 a lumen located within the confines of the shaft; and
the lumen providing a portion of the fluid passage.
8. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
an elongated hollow shaft; and
20 the at least one fluid outlet is located within the confines of the shaft.
9. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
a push rod;
a lumen located within the confines of the push rod; and
25 the lumen providing a portion of the fluid passage.
10. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the fluid passage passes
through a connector member which couples the blade members to a push rod.
- 30 11. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid outlet is
provided by a connector member which couples the blade member and a push rod.
12. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the at least one fluid outlet is
positioned to provide the fluid expelled from the fluid outlet to the end effector.
- 35 13. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the fluid outlet is obstructed
to direct contact by tissue by the blade members.

14. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the fluid outlet is provided at a location substantially inaccessible to direct contact with tissue.
15. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the blade members are
5 configured to pass through a cannula for laparoscopic surgery.
16. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second blade members is curved.
- 10 17. The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein the at least one of the exterior surface is further configured such that the fluid expelled from the fluid outlet forms a localized fluid coupling between a surface of the tissue and the exterior surface when the exterior surface is located adjacent the tissue surface.
- 15 18. A method for treating tissue comprising:
providing tissue having a tissue surface;
providing radio frequency power at a power level;
providing a fluid at a fluid flow rate;
providing electrosurgical scissors configured to provide the radio frequency
20 power and the fluid to tissue;
providing the fluid to the tissue at the tissue surface;
forming a fluid coupling with the fluid which couples the tissue and the electrosurgical scissors;
providing the radio frequency power to the tissue;
25 sealing the tissue against at least one of a flow of bodily fluid and air from the tissue; and
cutting the sealed tissue with the electrosurgical scissors.